

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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13 NOVEMBER 1979

DOCUMENT 1-506/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS on behalf of
the European Democratic Group

with request for urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on occupation of the Embassy of the United
States of America in Teheran by Iranian
students

The European Parliament,

- believing that international conventions on diplomatic intercourse, privileges and immunities contribute to the development of friendly relations among nations, irrespective of their differing constitutional and social systems and religious confessions,
 - concerned at the failure of the Islamic Revolutionary Council to prevent or to condemn the occupation of the Embassy of the United States of America in Teheran by students,
 - noting the message from the President of the Security Council of the United Nations to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, requesting respect for diplomatic immunities and the safe release of hostages held by the students,
 - noting the démarche by the Ambassadors of the European Communities in Teheran,
 - recalling that Iran is a signatory of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, ratified by the Majlis on 3 February 1965,
1. Reminds the peoples of all nations that the special status of diplomatic agents has been recognized from ancient times;
 2. Affirms that the rules of international law should continue to govern relations between states;
 3. Draws attention to the inviolability of the premises of foreign missions in Iran, accorded by Article 22 of the Vienna Convention, and of the persons of diplomatic agents accorded by Article 29;
 4. Underlines the mutual obligation of all states enjoying diplomatic relations with one another to protect the premises of missions and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity (Article 22.2);
 5. Particularly condemns the wilful encouragement of violence towards a diplomatic mission as a means of bringing political pressure upon another state;
 6. Calls upon the Iranian authorities to order forthwith the withdrawal of Iranian citizens occupying the premises of the Embassy of the United States of America in Teheran, to effect due restitution for the losses, damage and distress incurred, and to ensure the future protection of diplomatic personnel and premises in Iran according to international conventions;
 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, to the Governments of the Member States, to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, to the Ambassadors of Iran accredited to the Nine and to the Ambassador of the United States of America to the European Communities.

JUSTIFICATION

The Embassy of the United States of America in Teheran has been forcibly occupied by Iranian students who have taken diplomatic personnel hostage. Statements by Iranian students indicate that the lives of the hostages are in danger.